

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 281841Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8356

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON GUILLAUME REPORTS

REF: BONN 16468, OCTOBER 18, 1974

1. THE LONG AWAITED DEBATE ON THE REPORTS OF THE SPECIAL BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF THE GDR SPY ON WILLY BRANDT'S STAFF, GUENTER GUILLAUME, TOOK PLACE FEBRUARY 27. THE COMMITTEE COULD NOT AGREE ON A COMMON REPORT AND THE SPD/FDP ISSUED A JOINT REPORT AND THE CDU/CSU MEMBERS ISSUED A SEPARATE REPORT. THE CDU ATTACK ON THE SPD/FDP REPORT IN THE DEBATE WAS LED BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND CDU DEPUTY, WALTER WALLMANN. WALLMANN DIRECTED HIS CRITICISM ON THE HANDLING OF THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR AGAINST THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE BUNDESKANZLERAMT

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EHMKE, SPD FRAKTION LEADER WEHNER AND FRG SECURITY

CHIEF NOLLAU. THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE WAS POORLY ATTENDED WITH THE CDU/CSU ATTENDANCE GREATER THAN THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES.

2. MOST OF THE SPEAKERS DURING THE DEBATE WERE SECOND AND THIRD LEVEL DEPUTIES. THE DEBATE RECEIVED LESS PRESS COVERAGE THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED BECAUSE THE KIDNAPPING OF CDU BERLIN MAYORAL CANDIDATE LORENZ GRABBED THE HEADLINES AND THE DEBATE TOOK PLACE IN THE EVENING, TOO LATE FOR MOST OF THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS. ACCORDING TO ONE CDU PARTICIPANT, POSTPONEMENT OF THE DEBATE UNTIL THE EVENING WAS THE RESULT OF A SPD TACTICAL "FILIBUSTER" IN THE MORNING AND THE SPECIAL CDU/CSU FRAKTION MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS THE BERLIN KIDNAPPING.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE OPPOSITION WILL GET VERY MUCH POLITICAL MILEAGE OUT OF THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR. EHMKE IS NO LONGER IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND ATTACKS ON WEHNER ARE NOTHING NEW IN GERMAN POLITICAL LIFE AND WILL HARDLY DAMAGE THE SPD. WALLMAN IS INTELLIGENT, TOUGH MINDED AND A GOOD SPEAKER AND HE HAS WORKED HARD TO EXPLOIT THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR, BUT IT DOES NOT LOOK AS IF IT WILL BECOME A MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE FOR THE 1975 LAENDER ELECTIONS OR IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTION NEXT YEAR. THE GUILLAUME TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR THIS SPRING COULD PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR THE OPPOSITION BUT AS OF NOW, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT IT WILL PROVIDE MANY DRAMATIC REVELATIONS.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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